

Summer With Jesus Week 9

God Time – Building a Great Life

These scriptures are selected to help you gain a deeper understanding of who Jesus is. They are intentionally designed for you to engage in your time alone with God. You will find them complementary to the teachings on the weekend (gatherings) and to the LIFE Group materials.

Some tips:

Use a Bible that is easy to read. The ESV or The NLT are both good translations.

Use a prayer journal. After you read the passages jot down what “jumped out” at you while reading. Then take a few minutes to write a prayer response to what you have read.

There are only five days of reading provided so if you miss a day you have time to catch up. Do not get legalistic! If you miss a day or even a week...God still loves you!

Monday: 2 Corinthians 13:5

Tuesday: Romans 8:10

Wednesday: 2 Corinthians 4:6-7

Thursday: Galatians 2:20

Friday: John 14:6

Diving Deeper

Summer With Jesus – Build a Great Life. Matthew 7:24-27

1. When you examine Matthew 7:13-27, it becomes apparent that Jesus is teaching us that there are two paths that we can follow but only one path will lead to Heaven, the Kingdom, and we must select the right path to get there. Review these verses and discuss the contrasting paths and the dangers or perils of taking the wrong path?

The Wide and the Narrow Gates: (verses 13-14) Anyone who chases after the cares of the world without the mind of the Spirit walks along the broad road that leads to destruction, and they do so with many people. In contrast, Jesus is the narrow gate and by following him and living in his power you will be able to enter the narrow gate and walk upon the path of life. This is the path that fewer people will travel.

True and False Prophets: (Verses 15-20) Be careful of those who do not follow the teachings of Jesus. There are those who appear to walk on the narrow path, but they are like ferocious wolves who will lead you astray. How do we know who these teachers are? By their fruit you will recognize them.

True and False Disciples: (Verses 21-23) There are many who profess to be followers of Christ, who put on a show but in their heart have not faith that leads to life. They look out for their own interests and do not show love for others. They put their faith in the ways of the world and hold themselves out as religious zealots. But their heart is full of evil and hatred and Jesus says, "Away from me, you evildoers."

The Wise and Foolish Builders: (Verses 24-27) Our focus this week is on the wise and foolish builders and Jesus is saying that when you put my words into practice you will be building a strong foundation that will carry you through the storms of life and help you stay on the path that leads to life. If not, you will be like the foolish builder who built his home on sinking sand. There will be no foundation, and all will come tumbling down.

2. Matthew 7.24 – 27. What did these two builders have in common?

In Jesus' illustration of the two builders, each house looked the same from the outside. The real foundation of our life is usually hidden and is only proven in the storm. When our foundation is tested will it stand or fall and that is why Jesus is directing us to lean on Him and put His words into practice. The two builders had much in common. The wise man and the

foolish man were both engaged in precisely the same objectives – they each desired a house, and to a considerable extent designed similar houses; both of them undertook to build their house, and both of them finished their house. In many ways the likeness between them is very much the same. (Spurgeon) — David Guzik, *Matthew, David Guzik's Commentaries on the Bible* (Santa Barbara, CA: David Guzik, 2013), Mt 7:24–27.

3. What made the difference between the two?

Each house looks secure in good weather. But torrential rains that can turn dry beds into raging torrents. Only storms reveal the quality of the work of the two builders. The thought reminds us of the parable of the sower in which the seed sown on rocky ground lasts only a short time, until “trouble or persecution comes because of the word” (13:21). The greatest storm is eschatological (the end times) (cf. Isa 28:16–17; Ezek 13:10–13; cf. Prov 12:7). But Jesus’ words about the two houses need not be so restricted. The point is that the wise man (a repeated term in Matthew; cf. Mt 10:16; 24:45; 25:2, 4, 8–9) builds to withstand anything.

A wise person represents those who put Jesus’ words into practice; they too are building to withstand anything. Those who pretend to have faith, who have a merely intellectual commitment, or who enjoy Jesus in small doses are foolish builders. When the storms of life come, their structures fool no one, above all not God (cf. Ezek 13:10–16).

The sermon ends with what has been implicit throughout it—the demand for radical submission to the exclusive lordship of Jesus, who fulfills the Law and the Prophets and warns the disobedient that the alternative to total obedience, true righteousness, and life in the kingdom is rebellion, self-centeredness, and eternal damnation. — D. A. Carson, “Matthew,” in *The Expositor's Bible Commentary: Matthew, Mark, Luke*, ed. Frank E. Gaebelein, vol. 8 (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1984), 194.

4. Think about the storms you have faced in life. Can you relate to a time you went through those storms without a solid foundation? In contrast, have you taken the steps of faith to put your life on a solid foundation built on the truth of God's word and has that carried you through other storms you have faced?

5. What are the odds that we will face storms in the future?

In this world you will have tribulation. Storms are coming. Be ready.